



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

at making a collection of documents and sources, but the book is largely such material. He insists that it is rather an account of economic affairs by persons who, for various reasons, were in a position to understand them. He further states his object by saying that economic history should (1) describe and explain the economic life of the people at all stages of their development; (2) investigate the relation of economic affairs to politics; (3) attempt to show the influence of economic life upon the social evolution of the country.

The chapter titles are as follows: (1) "The United States in the Economic History of the World"; (2) "Colonial Economy"; (3) "Colonial Policy"; (4) "Economic Aspects of the Revolution"; (5) "Economic Situation and the New Government"; (6) "Foreign Influences"; (7) "Rise of Internal Commerce"; (8) "Transportation"; (9) "Rise of Manufactures"; (10) "Representative Views of the Protective Tariff"; (11) "Currency"; (12) "Settlement of the West"; (13) "The Public Land Policy"; (14) "The Organization of Labor and Capital"; (15) "The Economics of Slavery." The sub-topics are conveniently and logically arranged.

The editor has fourteen brief introductory essays for as many different chapters. These show keen insight into the salient facts of our economic life and seem altogether too short; but perhaps longer introductions would have defeated his main purpose.

The reviewer is of the opinion that each author quoted should have a biographical paragraph; also, that each selection should have a brief statement pointing out its general significance. Both points should be insisted upon if the book is to be of the greatest service to general readers. Again, the reviewer emphatically protests against the proportion observed by the editor. Agriculture—the greatest industry of our history—is almost ignored, and labor is too scantily treated.

In spite of these few defects, the book is a good one and undoubtedly will receive the hearty welcome that its high worth justifies.

JEREMIAH S. YOUNG

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Responsibility for Crime: An Investigation of the Causes of Crime and a Means of Its Prevention. By PHILIP A. PARSONS. "Columbia Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law," Vol. XXXIV, No. 3. New York: Columbia University, 1909. 8vo, pp. 194. \$1.50.

This is an explanation of crime on the basis of Professor Giddings' theory of the sociological significance of stimulation and response. Theoretical chapters on criminal classes, punishment, and heredity and environment are followed by critical discussions of the death penalty, prison system, jury, justice and restitution, and propagation. The concluding chapters give the author's remedy and wander afield into education and progress.

To the economist perhaps the central point of interest should be the treatment of environment and heredity. If criminals are in the main criminals by environment the diminution of crime is a relatively simple process—remove the kind of environment that produces criminals. If, however, there is a

relatively large number of "born" criminals, then the practical problem is one of eugenics, and reform is a much longer and more expensive process, though perhaps surer in the long run. The author in the main throws extreme emphasis on heredity and leaves the impression that in his opinion environment is entirely secondary in the process of crime. Needless to say, there is no statistical proof offered. He shows a working knowledge of the writings of the criminal anthropologists, but he nowhere attempts a critical estimate of their conclusions. Is it, then, so conclusively settled that a numerous class of born (and hence ir reclaimable) criminals exists? We doubt it. Criminal anthropologists on the one hand and the eugenics enthusiasts on the other habitually fail to count the possible influence of environment in the products which they attribute entirely to heredity. Could the social environment of the members of the Jukes family have been different, is it by any means certain that any overwhelming proportion of them would have been criminals? No number of family genealogies will throw unmistakable light on this matter until we have equally painstaking study of the environment of every individual under consideration.

The author allows his own subjective opinions too much play. The result, notably in his treatment of the prison system, is a certain suggestion of rhetorical dogmatism—perhaps it would be better to say the uncurbed enthusiasm of the critic out for a scalp—which should not mar the otherwise fair pages of a scientific monograph. There are other indications that the author would have done well to have given himself more time to digest his material before publishing. His definition of crime, for instance, is so loose that it will cover any infraction of custom, while his definition of a criminal as "a person who commits crime" is not very enlightening.

In his chapter on punishment, he takes, with all the enthusiasm of a disciple, a philosophically deterministic position, yet manages to hold that all individuals, even the lunatic and the born criminal, are "socially" responsible. It would be much nearer the truth to say that society itself is responsible for their acts, because it has the power to remove the causal conditions producing the lunatic or the criminal, whether those conditions lie in heredity or in environment.

Since heredity plays so great a part we should expect to see the death penalty upheld, but the author shrinks from it as against our humane instinct. This instinct, however, (somewhat rhetorically) needs educating so that "bejeweled donors" will not "crush street gamins under their motor wheels while hurrying to a meeting of the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals." One wonders, by the way, what the heredity theory of crime is going to do with the joy-rider and other "criminaloids." We wonder also whether our humanity is as humane as we think it. Is it after all humane to shrink from the thought of quietly, reverently, even religiously chloroforming those hopeless tragedies of existence whose cost to society in pain and wealth is secondary only to Dreadnoughts and war? We suggest a search for a deeper and less conventionally sentimental conception of humaneness.

The author's remedy is "segregation." This seems to us to involve imprisonment, which he condemns. The "forced labor" which he recommends suggests to us the southern chain-gang. Is he prepared to advocate that? We agree that the present jury system should go, but we hang back a little from the instant conclusion that the jury of the future should consist of "a group of experts

trained in criminal anthropology and sociology and psychology." We are inclined to think the author's point that "true justice consists not in punishing a wrongdoer but in redressing the wrongs committed by him" is a good one, even if it does suggest distantly a return to the Anglo-Saxon *bot* and *wergild*.

Barring the slight enthusiasms to which we have alluded, Dr. Parsons proves himself the possessor of an exceptionally clear and vigorous style. It is a pleasure to find good English in a type of composition where it is too often conspicuous by its absence. And as to subject-matter the book as a whole is one which the lay reader will gain much by reading, and which the professional criminologist and penologist will have to reckon with.

A. B. WOLFE

OBERLIN COLLEGE

Toward Social Reform. By CANON AND MRS. S. A. BARNETT. New York: Macmillan, 1909; 12mo; pp. 352. \$1.50 net.

A book of this kind, made up as it is of brief papers upon a wide variety of subjects, from "Lady Visitors and Girls" to "The Unemployable" and "The Place of Public Libraries in Education," many of them republished from well-known and easily accessible periodicals, and merely bound together by a title-page and an introduction, must have exceptionally good subject-matter, handled with exceptional skill, fully to justify itself. Few busy Americans will have the patience or the interest to read many of these essays, especially as their style is notably lacking in life. Nevertheless the book will prove a useful addition to the table of one who desires an intelligent discussion of current, concrete problems and conditions facing English philanthropy and reform. The authors are on the ground and apparently know their ground well.

The book is divided into five parts, dealing respectively with "Social Reformers," "Poverty," "Education," "Recreation," and "Housing." To the latter subject is devoted but one paper. The best and most timely essays are those on unemployment, in Part II. The papers are nearly all exceedingly concrete, sometimes tiresome in their detail; but they abound in specific suggestions for future steps in reform that may prove useful to the American as well as the English philanthropist. There is no index.

A. B. WOLFE

OBERLIN COLLEGE

The Crime Problem: What to Do about It. How to Do It. By COL. VINCENT MYRON MASTEN, Military Instructor at the Elmira Reformatory. Elmira: Star-Gazette Co., 1909. 12mo, pp. 12+156.

Cheaply bound, poorly printed, with glaring typographical errors on nearly every page, this book at first sight appears simply one more example of that numerous tribe of productions turned out by the country press for people anxious to get into print. Nor is the impression altered much by the picturesquely grandiloquent language in which the author now and then indulges. It seems fully confirmed when we open the book at random and find a paragraph like this: "For habituals, justice of the resilient temper of the Damascus blade which may easily